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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Arthur Miles Gilbert

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9339

7590

10/20/2006

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EXAMINER

KLIMACH, PAULA W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2135

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/838,749

Applicant(s)

GILBERT ET AL.

Examiner

Paula W. Klimach

Art Unit

2135

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 09/25/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because of following reasons.

Applicant argued Alberg teaches away from the security functions being incorporated into the design of integrated development environment architecture. This is not found persuasive. The section quoted by the applicant enforces the need to design software such that it has "precise design of system functions and structures so that the resulting software is secure against state-of-the-art threats and can be demonstrated to be secure using state-of-the-art technology such as formal verification/proof technology." The test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into the structure of the primary reference...Rather, the test is what the combined teachings of those references would be suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. The objective of the system of Alberg is to develop a system that is a protector device for enhancing the security of a computer system (column 2 lines 46-50). Therefore the system of Alberg would be added to the system of Bowman-Amuah in such a way that it does not change the system but builds on the system, thus enhancing it.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 7 are directed to a method of designing security for an information technology system. The examiner asserts that the collection of information does not fall within the statutory classes listed in 35 USC 101. Thus, while the claimed invention might be labeled as a device/method the steps described do not result in tangible subject matter. The final product of the steps recited in the claim seems to be a diagram to document security requirements that would be used to build a system. In order for a subject matter to be statutory, the claimed process must be limited to a practical application of the abstract idea. A claim is limited to a practical application when the method, as claimed produces a concrete, tangible and useful result; i.e., the method recites a step or act of producing something that is concrete, tangible, and useful.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7 recites the limitation:

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"the security threats" in line 3;

"the security properties" in line 4;

"the plurality of security subsystems" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 7 and 10-16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman-Amuah (6,405,364 B1) in view of Alsberg (4,672,572).

In reference to claim 7, Bowman-Amuah discloses a system and method for building systems in a development architecture framework wherein security is integrated into the solution (abstract and fig. 2), the steps of the method comprising: identifying the security threats to the system (column 18 lines 30-36); determining the security properties within a reference model (column 49 line 66 to column 50 lines 53), Bowman-Amuah lists the properties provided by the components of the overall security solution; assigning functional details of the plurality of security subsystems to an infrastructure, a plurality of components, and a plurality of operations of the system (column 124 lines 33-35), since the system requires security through out the system and therefore security properties need to be embedded in components of the solution;

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enumerating security requirements for infrastructure, components and operations (column 50 line 54 to column 51 lines 14); developing integrity requirements (column 18 lines 32-36).

Although Bowman-Amuah does not disclose creating a functional technology diagram, Bowman-Amuah does disclose documenting the process (column 17 lines 64-67), which performs the function of the functional technology diagram.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the functional technology diagrams. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because functional requirement diagrams capture the intended behavior of the system as shown in the documentation of the process that indicates the intended behavior; information that can later be used for testing.

Bowman-Amuah does not expressly disclose the security subsystem that includes an audit subsystem, an integrity subsystem, and an information flow control subsystem.

Alsberg discloses a protector device for enhancing security (abstract). The system includes an audit subsystem (column 6 lines 33-65), an integrity subsystem (column 7 lines 1-10), and an information flow control subsystem (column 8 lines 13-63).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include audit subsystem, integrity subsystems, and information flow control subsystems as in Alsberg in the system of Bowman-Amuah. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because auditing potentially sensitive material, integrity subsystems, and controlling the information flow would increase the security of the system.

Bowman-Amuah discloses a system and method for building systems in a development architecture framework wherein security is integrated into the solution; however the security

framework of Bowman-Amuah does not disclose using a baseline of a security model comprising a plurality of interrelated and interdependent security subsystems.

Perona discloses a system that performs rule checks in a two-way manner, restrictions such as licensing and source restrictions may be placed not only on system modules, but also on the applications using the security to be achieved (abstract). Therefore the modules of Perona include security properties in terms of a plurality of interconnected and interdependent security subsystems (column 4 lines 20-58 in combination of column Fig. 5).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to create a plurality of interconnected and interdependent security subsystems as in Perona in the system of Bowman-Amuah. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it would enable higher levels of security.

In reference to claims 11-12, wherein the system further provides integrity assurance requirements using a standard set of criteria.

Alsberg discloses the integrity subsystem providing integrity requirement (part 76 Fig. 5)

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the integrity requirements as in Alsberg in the system of Bowman-Amuah. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because the audit subsystem gives a view of the system which allows the system to be analyzed and changed to make it more secure.

In reference to claim 10, wherein the method further includes the step of documenting the solution environment and security assumptions and using the environment and security assumptions in developing the security properties of the overall solution (column 17 lines 64-67).

In reference to claim 13 wherein the step of determining the security properties of the overall solution includes the step of using the Common Criteria of ISO Standard 15408.

Although Bowman-Amuah discloses the use of standards, Bowman-Amuah does not expressly disclose the use of industrial standards.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use industrial standards. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it would make the device compatible with other devices in the industry.

In reference to claims 14-15 wherein the step of using industry standard security criteria includes the step of using Common Criteria, which conforms to ISO Standard 15408.

Although Bowman-Amuah discloses the use of standards, Bowman-Amuah does not expressly disclose the use of industrial standards.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use industrial standards. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it would make the device compatible with other devices in the industry.

In reference to claim 16, wherein the step of enumerating security requirements for infrastructure components and operations includes the step of identifying, enumerating and describing a number of standard security subsystems that in total represent the security function of the solution (column 49 line 66 to column 50 lines 53).

Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowman-Amuah in view of Alsberg as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Leighton et al (5,519,778).

In reference to claim 8, Bowman-Amuah does not disclose ranking the security threats to the solution and considering the biggest threats to the security.

Leighton discloses categorizing (ranking) the security levels and therefore threats (column 6 lines 36-45).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to categorize the security levels as in Leighton in the system of Bowman-Amuah. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because increasing security can reduce the performance of the system therefore by using less security for threats that are considered lower security increases in performance can be achieved.

In reference to claim 9, Bowman-Amuah does not disclose the step of ranking the security threats to the solution includes the step of doing less for security threats not considered substantial threats to the solution.

Leighton discloses a hierarchy of security protection and therefore grading security needs (column 6 lines 37-67)

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to categorize the security levels as in Leighton in the system of Bowman-Amuah. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because increasing security can reduce the performance of the system therefore by using less security for threats that are considered lower security increases in performance can be achieved.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6 are allowed.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Jablon 5,421,006

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paula W. Klimach whose telephone number is (571) 272-3854. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Thr 9:30 a.m to 5:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

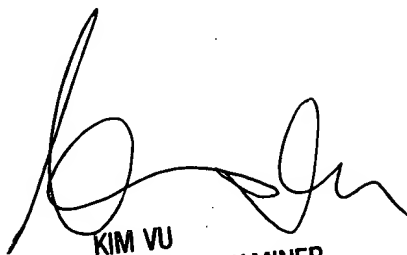
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The 2100 Tech center will move to Carlyle in October 2004. The new telephone number for the receptionist is (571) 272-2100. The examiner's new telephone number will be (571) 272-3854.

PWK

Friday, October 13, 2006



KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100